

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. David Osborne, and Mr. Michael Fain. Dr. Yan Sun was absent. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Gail Wilcox, Director of Administration; and Mr. Bradley Wilson, Director of Student Services were also in attendance.

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

Ms. Mark called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

III. Recognitions

a. EGHS Football Team- R.I. Football Officials Sportsmanship Award and Division III Champions

b. Gatorade Rhode Island Football Player of the Year-Nick Andreozzi

c. United States Senate Youth Program-Zachary Johnson

All students' were recognized and congratulated for their accomplishments.

d. Susan Verdon-Mosca-Paraprofessional EGHS-Retirement

Mrs. Verdon-Mosca was recognized for her service to the district.

IV. Public Comments

Mr. Christian Roos asked questions pertaining to prerequisites for advanced placement courses for middle and high school. Ms. Mary Ward posed questions in regards to advanced placement in Math and Science.

V. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular and Executive for December 1, 2015

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Osborne, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the minutes with one word change in item I. Dr. Gifford abstained.

b. Executive for December 8, 2015

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Osborne, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the minutes.

VI. Superintendent's Report

Individual PARCC scores will be sent home with students tomorrow. More information regarding PARCC can be found on the district website or on the RIDE website. The survey for feedback on the November 25th PD/Parent Conference Day will be sent out again as only twenty-six responses were received. Two-thirds of the responses have

provided positive feedback regarding the date. Dr. Mercurio will take part in a discussion at RIDE tomorrow regarding innovative high schools. A special election will take place on January 5, 2016 to fill the open School Committee seat.

VII. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

VIII. Action Items

a. Parental leave extension-Jillian Meyer, Special Education Teacher, Eldredge

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the parental leave extension.

b. Field Trip-Italy April 2017-EGHS

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Osborne, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the field trip. Ms. Cohen will research fundraising opportunities.

c. Ski Club Overnight Trip- Sunday River, Maine-February 26-28, 2016- EGHS

On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the field trip. The dates of the trip are February 26-February 28, 2016.

IX. Advisory/Subcommittee Update

a. Mental Health Subcommittee

The Committee met on December 2, 2015. This meeting was well attended by several students who took part in Choose2Matter. There was discussion surrounding student-led initiatives regarding the social and mental health of students. The next meeting will take place in January.

b. Building Committee

The Committee met on December 14, 2015 to discuss Frenchtown all-day kindergarten, renovations, solar panels, and EGHS

renovations. The town will work on the outside of Frenchtown and has scheduled the work. The total cost for renovations is about \$120- \$150,000. Possible cost savings/revenue from the use of solar panels was discussed. The district will work with the town to identify whether it is advantageous to move forward. National Grid will be introducing a \$20 million program to finance energy initiatives.

Funds will be available for energy efficient projects such as replacing lighting and boilers. A proposal will be submitted by the end of January. Possible renovations at the high school were discussed including locker rooms and reconfiguring space for special education.

X. Discussion

a. Final Proposal of the School Start Time Survey for Students

This proposal was approved at the last meeting with input from the Committee.

b. New coaching requirements-RIIL-Chris Cobain

Mr. Cobain provided and discussed the additional RIIL coaching requirements that are effective August 2016. The new requirements will be in effect for all new coaches starting in the 2016-2017 school year. In the future, all coaches will be managed using a database through RIIL instead of the RIDE portal.

c. All Day Kindergarten Update

Dr. Mercurio provided information on Barrington's all-day kindergarten costs. Three full-time interns were hired (\$80,000). Three full-time and one-half time teacher were also added along with additional FTEs for itinerants at a cost of \$500,000.

d. Update on curriculum process: Science, ELA, and Math

Dr. Naspo, Mrs. Dulac, Mrs. Izzo, and Mr. Rath presented curriculum updates for their respective areas. Mrs. Dulac explained the progression of Math courses and discussed the “at a glance” document that will provide detailed information for students/parents.

Mrs. Izzo discussed the ELA curriculum changes and the Common Core. Mr. Rath provided an overview of the Next Generation Science Standards and compared the old standards with the new. The introduction of scientific and engineering practices were discussed. The Committee had several questions including online resources/tools for students/parents, Math resources, etc. The Grade 6-12 ELA and Math curriculums are scheduled for approval in Spring 2016. Another curriculum update will take place in January for the lower grade levels.

e. Advanced Coursework Update/Dual Enrollment Update

Two students are currently enrolled in the “running start” program at CCRI, which will continue in the Spring. There are sixty-six EGHS students currently participating in the concurrent program through RIC early enrollment. RIDE has discussed the possibility of making high school courses available to all students across the state. This means that a student in one district could potentially take a course in another district. This idea has logistical issues because high schools typically run rotating schedules. Virtual courses would need to be asynchronous. Mrs. Winters questioned the process for students who receive reimbursement for their textbooks. She asked if students would return the books to the district. Dr. Mercurio will

look into this concern.

f. School Start Time-Final Report

Dr. Mercurio presented an overview of the School Start Time final report. No additional staff is needed at any of the schools. Projected bus routes and a list of before/after schedules were reviewed. The Flahive Group is completing a peer review of the projected schedules. In some cases, bus rides are shorter, but some are longer due to combined stops/routes. One proposed Meadowbrook schedule is forty-one minutes. Dr. Mercurio will check with RIDE to see if there is a time limit for students riding buses. The net impact of a two-tier system (for transportation) is approximately \$89,112.00 for FY2017. Eliminating the mid-day kindergarten run saved \$127,181. Two general education buses and one special needs bus will be added. The EGHS is looking to pilot a schedule change in February. The current Transportation Policy has received major revamps/revisions and does not need further adjustment. The communication plan will commence in January 2016 using a host of vehicles/ strategies to communicate the start time change. Final report recommendations include the administration of a student sleep survey, continue to work with staff/RIDE to review/revise secondary schedules to reflect best practices, develop/implement a task force to study homework, and incorporate a final peer- reviewed third party financial impact. Dr. Mercurio was asked to review other districts (i.e., Sharon High School) to see whether caps were placed on practice times for sports, clubs, etc. The Committee also discussed activities that take place before/after school. Dr. Mercurio

was asked to find out how many OLM students use district transportation.

XI. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Fain, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted to adjourn at 9:37 p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY